



152nd MAINTENANCE COMPANY DEPLOYMENT NEWS

Pride In AMERICA Begins with ME! 152d Maintenance Company, Camp Liberty Iraq



Commander's Corner

15 Oct 2005

Commander's Corner- November Newsletter

Dear 152 "Extended Family"- What an incredibly diverse world we serve in. If you all at home could see the melting pot of uniforms that make up our current operations here at Camp Liberty, I think you would be substantially impressed! One look around the dining facility reveals warriors from the Active Army, Army National Guard, Air Force, Navy, various NATO service members and the great network of KBR support staff. The traditional lines between services have certainly been blurred, and our work here is truly a collaborative effort. It is also a tremendous experience to be supporting a nation on the verge of it's first constitution and freedom of national elections.

The 152 is now entering its tenth month of mobilization and deployment, and are in the heart of our steady state operations. We have a majority of our unit dedicated to the various Force Protection requirements on Camp Liberty, which is still a valid and meaningful mission that we have wrapped our arms around and place an incredible amount of importance on. Because of our efforts in this area, Camp Liberty is a reasonably safe and secure place for the 10th Mountain Warriors to conduct their wartime missions.

Having said that the 152, which has a rich tradition in maintenance excellence, is getting the opportunity to provide area maintenance support in addition to our force protection missions. We work closely with the 10th MTN Brigade Support Battalion in a combined effort to set new standards of maintenance service for this theatre of operations, and our soldiers are excited to do the work that many have trained for over 30 years to perform. The last 5 months of our tour should prove to be very rewarding.

I hope that all of you at home are enjoying the fall season, as winter's clutches will be upon you before you know it. Please make sure that you wood burners out there are using appropriate personal protective equipment while using the chain saws and wood splitters, and use safe lifting techniques so as to minimize the possibility of injury. Take care, and thanks for your continued support.

CPT Christopher Moody
"Always Professional"

*152 Congratulates:
NCO of the month for September- SGT George Whitmore
Soldier of the month for September-SPC Joel Bottem

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Executive Officer

Happy October to the friends and family of the 152nd Maintenance Company, we have crossed over the half-way mark in our deployment cycle! My goal for our Soldiers for the remainder of the tour is to leave Iraq proud of what we have accomplished. I know the soldiers of the 152nd are disciplined, well-trained, and committed to continue the excellent work already done.

Our commitment to achieving Iraqi security and civil self-reliance has not wavered. Your commitment to sustain and support the Soldiers of the 152nd through the remainder of the deployment is critical to our continued success. Thank you for the many things you do to ensure our Soldiers peace of mind on the home front.

God Bless our families, God Bless the United States Army National Guard, and God Bless the United States of America. First in War...First in Peace!

Respectfully Yours,

1LT Jines



News from the Top Wrench

When I was a young boy I thought of what it would be like in the Army. How structured it would be and how nice knowing when, where, why, how, and reason we had to do everything. Being able to say six months from now we will be doing this at this place and at that time. "BOY" was I dreaming. This unit has had everything thrown at it even the kitchen sink.

We have always come out on top. We are now under the 10th Mountain BCT (Light); we are still doing Force protection and a little more maintenance than before. We all have the sense that time is winding down. The single greatest point about life here now is that we are all in one place. We still live in our trailers the food is good, we are maintaining and now just waiting for April to get here. I will make sure that we all stay on our toes and we will never let our guard down until we are sitting home with you. The holidays will be hard for all of us, especially all of you at home. Our days are very busy and we work hard, as we get into the holiday season your packages and letters help us through our hard times.

"Look back at your day, if you are extremely satisfied with the outcome it has not been a day when you lounge around doing nothing. This has been a day when you had everything to do, and you've done it."

1SG Daniel Grenier



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Unit History

Another month down and another month in history; the following is a rundown of our history throughout our unit missions;

North Liberty Towers

Several soldiers in the North Liberty Towers mission (Tower Guards) were recognized with coins from the 3-6th Battalion Command Sergeant Major for their contributions to the tower improvements. Soldiers that received coins included: MSG Campbell, SSG Colvin, SSG Wieth, SSG Comstock, and SSG Clason. Overall, the tower missions continue to set the standard as demonstrate our ability for FOB (Forward Operation Base) security.

Camp Cropper

One of the more positive pieces for our mission at Camp Cropper is the approval by the 3/6th FA to build some new all steel guard towers of our own design. The troops continue to exceed the standard while adapting to an ever-changing environment. With the new maintenance mission our unit has been tasked with, we have had to realign a number of personnel, which has meant some additional orientation training for them.

Force Protection

As of 1 September, Lt. Pantalone left Force Protection to assume duties as Shop Officer for the 152nd Maintenance team. 1Lt. Emonds was interim OIC for 2 weeks then moved on to Battalion to a new job.

On 10 September, Force Protection changed command from the 256th BCT (Louisiana) to the 1/10 BCT (Ft. Drum). On that same date, Force Protection transitioned went from 2- 12 hour shift to 3- 8 hour shifts. Force Protection has been going through a transition period revising the SOP with the new unit 1/10th.

On 26 September, SGT Whitmore and SPC Bottem were presented with NCO of the Month and Soldier of the Month respectively. 28 September. 4 soldiers received coins in Sept. SGT Hall (256 Coin), PFC Fowle (256 Coin), SPC Bibeau (152 Coin), and PFC Watson (152 Coin).

Tech Supply

With the arrival of the 10th Mountain Co. the 152 Tech Supply has assisted in two wall to wall inventories. One due to the takeover of the TSO from the 199th and the again due to systems crash on the week of Sep. 18th, each taking approximately 3 days to complete.

In the meantime it was business as usual with Receiving and Issue supporting approximately 170 units per week. Also the storage section remains very busy maintaining, locating and storing approximately 4000 lines of supplies.

Company Maintenance

A lot of things were accomplished in the Company Maintenance Area. Approximately 20 trailer tires were installed. We also posted to the ULLS-G system approximately 200 services, between weapons, commo, and vehicles. SPC Grant is now working with SSG Seavey learning the ULLS-G system. We also have been very busy with the upkeep of our equipment.



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The Track platoon is now supporting the 1-10th Mountain Division by maintaining a fleet of 36 M-113 armored personnel carriers. Track platoon also does routine Org. Maintenance on it's own M-88 recovery vehicle, and assists the 2-130th with some GS level maintenance on components for the Bradley fighting vehicles.

Construction Platoon has done about 15 jobs and some fabricating work. We have a "top of the line" hose making machine that stays busy. We have been making a lot hoses and can make almost any that is needed. Another great asset we have is what we call the "Bat mobile"; it is a mobile machine shop trailer. Some of the fabrication jobs we have completed in the shop are bushings and special tools for the other shops. Parts have been slow getting here otherwise we could have done a lot more. The logistics flow seems to be problematic at this time.

Admin

During the month of September the 152nd Maintenance Company received from the 256th BCT, 124 approved Army Achievement Medals (AAM's), 4 approved Army Commendation Medals (ARCOM's), 17 approved Combat Action Badge (CAB's).

This month consistently poses the unique challenge of reenlisting soldiers with the unknown of what the new bonus contracts will bring at the beginning of the new FY. We currently have had 4 reenlistments in the month of September.

The following soldiers were promoted during the month of September/October:

Promotions

Name and Rank

2LT Cynthia L. Pantalone
PFC Matthew C. Searles
PFC Rebecca B. Busch
PV2 Robert E Baker
SGT David Butler

Rank Promoted to

1LT
SPC
SPC
PFC
SSG

Happy Birthday

Rita Zbylut October 22 "Love you always and forever, Louis"

Supply

The Supply Room is run by SFC Hartley Mowatt (Supply Sergeant) SSG Paul Dionne (Asst. Supply Sergeant), and SGT Claude Castonguay (Armorer). Supply has been very busy this month working with all missions and starting to work toward re-deployment back to the states. (When we find out we'll let you know)

SGT Castonguay has been going out to the missions and completing Quarterly maintenance on all weapons, which includes M16A2, M249, M2, and M9. He also receives and issues weapons from soldiers going on leave and returning, during the past few months we had an inspection done by the 199th and 256th Battalions and he received a 100% rating. The arms room is still at a very high standard that Sgt. Castonguay has set, and he continues getting compliments.



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SSG Dionne has been busy this past month by assisting the 10th Mountain HHC Supply Sergeant. He has started going over to assist the HHC supply at least once a week and works with the new Supply Sergeant showing him how to operate and understand the Ulls-S-4 box and how to input new downloads from the property book officer. He is also learning how the Theater Property Equipment Books are kept and how to have items either put onto the property books or lateral transferred to another unit. He has also is learning how to request supplies through Support Supply Services Company and Central Issuing Facility.

SFC Mowatt has been busy going through the property books and having the new section leader's inventory and sign for their platoon equipment. The officers have done an excellent job at making sure all their property is accounted for. Supply is starting to work through the property and work with 1Lt. Emonds the UMO officer and start requesting items that are needed for the re-deployment back to home station. Supply is also starting to set up folders for turn over of equipment that will be staying in country as each mission is turned over to the units replacing us so that we will have a smooth transfer when it happens.

Pad Escort Detail

I am PFC Eric M. Elliott and I have been on pad/escort detail for a little over a month now and have come to enjoy the things I do and the people I work with. I have a daily interaction with the local Iraqis and other third world nationals. In my time here I have worked for several local contractors escorting their workers around the FOB and have been to every area this AO has in that time. I've worked in such places as the Camp Liberty bazaar (Local Flee Market) and riding on a garbage truck don't sound very fun but I get to learn a lot about the people and where they come from. It is a real interesting job and I am looking forward to continuing this until we are ready to go home.

AUTO 1

Hello family members,

It's hard to believe its November already, how time flies when you're having fun. Things here in Iraq are going along pretty smooth for Auto 1 we have been extremely busy which helps the time pass by pretty fast. October was a very important month for the Iraqi people as on the 15th they got to vote on a new constitution for the first time. Once the people have spoken they will be well on their way to forming a new government that will be fair and just for all.

The next step will come on December 15th when Iraq will vote in national elections and have a new government seated by Dec. 31st. Although Auto 1 is not directly involved in going outside the FOB to help with security, our job is inside as a support role and this is also a very important duty as well.

We have had another promotion in Auto I would like to congratulate PV2 Robert Baker on his step up to PFC. He had to take a PT test to make this happen and did an excellent job. PFC Baker now works down in the maintenance area repairing vehicles that go outside the FOB on a daily basis. Auto has also had some people who received 152nd coins of excellence from the 1sg. SPC Bibeau and SPC Bouchard were recognized for their fine work on the Force Protection team. Also SFC Gray, SFC Dumas, SSG Rossignol and SPC Hazlett all received 3rd Infantry Division coins of excellence from Gen. Oneil for all their hard work at MST#7 keeping the 1/10 BSB vehicles up and running so they can perform their mission outside the wire. Congratulations for a job well done.



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A lot of people will tell you that the National Guard doesn't measure up to the regular army but in our case that is not true. We actually have some of our NCO's helping train the army mechanics down at the MST's so that says something in its self.

Auto 1 would like to wish all our loved ones back in Maine a very happy Thanksgiving holiday season, we wish we could be there to enjoy it with you but we are doing an important job here as you all know. I just want to assure everyone back there that all your soldiers are being well taken care of and are in very good spirits. I as a Platoon Sergeant couldn't have asked for a better group of people to work with, they make my job easy.

Soldiers taking leave in November will be SPC Mitchell, SPC Bouchard, SGT Gervais, SGT Bowman, and SFC Gray enjoy your well deserved leave time. You families are all in our thoughts each day, so long for now our next newsletter will be sent out the 1st week of December. Now some messages from your troops:

Happy B-Day to my wife Crystal 11/14 from SSG Dale Breton Sidney, Maine.

Happy B-Day to my brother Chris from PFC Robert Baker Bangor, Maine.

Happy B-Day to PFC Matt Fowle from all of Auto Platoon.

Happy B-Day to my niece Julia 11/01 from SFC Ed Campbell Pittston, Maine.

Happy Thanksgiving from Auto 1
SFC Ed Campbell

Wolf Pack

Hello to all Wolf Pack and Wolf Pack family members back home!

Well here we are "Another month down and one month closer to our return!" By the time you receive this news letter it will be just past our 6 month mark in country and we should be on the down hill slide! The day time temperature has dropped to around the 100 mark and the night time temperature has fallen to the 60's and 70's. Still no rain and it sure would be nice to see some.

This past month SSG Matt Fairfield, SGT Frank Nile and SPC Josh Gallant all made a safe return from their 15 days of leave. For the month of October we have PFC Matthew Wright (who we gained in Texas, he was IRR) traveling home to Virginia in hopes to be home in time to witness his second child to be born. Congratulations PFC Wright and we hope all goes well.

We miss you and love you all!!!

Wolf Pack

Armament Platoon



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The past month was full of changes throughout our mission. One of the tasks we carried out was the improvements of ten of our positions. Soldiers worked hard at painting, repairing nets, building shelves, to improve upon each positions overall functionality and effectiveness. Several soldiers were recognized with coins from the Battalion CSM for their contributions to the site improvements. Soldiers that received coins included: MSG Campbell, SSG Colvin, SSG Wieth, SSG Comstock, and SSG Clason.

Our mission also had a change of personnel that lasted most of the month. The purpose was to rotate mechanics from the missions to the shop. New soldiers were quick to learn the tower procedures and made good additions to our team. Chief Gillette and I will continue to ensure that this rotation continues. Overall, the soldiers continue to set the standard in each and every job they do. We look forward to a great upcoming month!

"Mission First, Soldiers Always!"

Respectfully submitted,

2LT Nick Ginther
Armament Platoon Leader

“Comments from the Chief”

This has been a very good month for Armament. We are in full swing at the shops with all of the sections having a steady flow of work. Our work on the Long Range Acquisition Systems has established us as the primary repair center in the region. We have begun a weekly rotation of soldiers which give our platoon the opportunity to benefit from the shop environment. Additionally, soldiers will be able to further their knowledge and understanding of the “true” Armament mission.

We have had several soldiers take the personal initiative to take and pass the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). This will enable the soldiers to re-enlist for a \$15,000.00 tax free bonus while in theatre. There will be approximately five Armament Soldiers participating in a Re-enlistment ceremony that will be held in the palace in the upcoming months. We anticipate that they will have the privilege to be sworn in by Major General Libby, The Adjutant General, Maine National Guard.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Gillette
Armament Technician

Auto 2

Hello Washington State!

This has been said so many times...but here it is again...We miss you all, and we look forward to our return! Even the “honey-do” lists sound quite nice...and I never thought I would say that!

Congratulations to 951's very own SPC Bonita Wilcox for Soldier of the Month, for the month of September. Her dedication, loyalty and hard work was noticed by all, and recognized. Great job, Bo!



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And here it is, the half way point for this deployment. Some days, it seems like it flew by, and other days...well, we made it. Let's just "carry on" and "continue to march," and before you know it, we will be packing our gear and getting ready to celebrate!

I managed to escape for my 2-week leave, and met up with my family in Scotland. It was a great time to get reacquainted with my wife and kids, and unwind. I am amazed at the peace of mind I came back with, knowing we are almost finished with our assignment here.

We had the opportunity to discuss many things as well. Something my wife and I realized is very important to us, is for our family traditions to carry on without me being there. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, each of these holidays have special meaning, and special traditions we have started. We feel it is very important for our children to not miss out on those, and hopefully learn that life goes on, we have to deal with things...and make the best out of our situations! (of course, I hope they don't figure out ways to have more fun without me...) lol

I need to close for now...I am behind the deadline as it is...take care all, and thanks for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Joel Bottem